

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Trade Marks Act, 1999

1699. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Marks Act, 1999 provides for a Delhi-based Appellate Board;

(b) if so, whether an aggrieved person will have to come down to Delhi to file Special Leave Petition; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to do away with such undue expenses and delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Section 83 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 provides for establishment of an Intellectual Property appellate Board. Section 84 of the Act provides that a Bench of the Board shall sit at such place as the Central Government may notify. The establishment of the Board is with a view to reduce undue expense and delays for litigants.

Impact of Removal of QRs on the Industry

1700. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the removal of the Quantitative Restrictions on import of various commodities on the performance of the domestic industry in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that small units are affected due to liberalization of import of consumer goods and components into the country;

(c) whether Government propose to protect the local units while dealing with the WTO before signing various agreements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Import restrictions are being continuously removed since 1991, as part of economic liberalization programme. However, the removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports. The growth rate of imports was 15.3% in 1993-94, 23.1% in 1994-95, 36.4% in 1995-96, 13.2% in 1996-97, 11% in 1997-98, 14.2% in 1998-99 and 13.6% in 1999-2000